

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 18-23 and 25-36 of the present application as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,821,695 to Vilanilam ("Vilanilam") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection inasmuch as it applies to the amended claims.

Vilanilam discloses a housing having a first cavity in sealing engagement with a glass jewel that contains a second cavity. The two cavities cooperate to form a closed chamber. The closed chamber is filled with an encapsulating material. The encapsulating material does not form the exterior surface of the lens, that role is filled by the glass jewel, nor would the encapsulating material of Vilanilam be used as an exterior surface of a lens, as it is an elastomer that is not rigid or durable. The glass jewel does not form a reusable mold that may be used to mold subsequent lenses because it forms a part of the device of Vilanilam and is not removed after the formation of the elastomeric encapsulant.

The claims of the present application all require filling the mold with a flowable lens material to immerse the LEDs within the material and such that the flowable lens material itself forms the exterior of the lamp assembly. Vilanilam does not disclose this limitation because the glass jewel of Vilanilam forms the exterior and not the flowable elastomeric encapsulant used by Vilanilam.

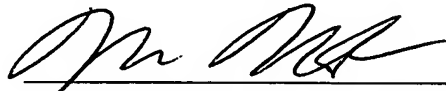
The claims of the present application all require hardening the lens material such that the flowable material forming the exterior of the lamp assembly provides a rigid exterior of the lamp assembly. As discussed above, the flowable material of Vilanilam does not form an exterior of the lamp assembly nor would it.

The claims of the present invention all require reusing said mold for molding subsequent lamp assemblies. Therefore, the glass jewel of Vilanilam cannot be characterized as the mold of

the present invention, because the glass jewel of Vilanilam is not removed from a completed device and thus cannot serve to mold subsequent lamp assemblies.

Based on the foregoing, the allowance of claims 18-23 and 25-36 is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Nolte', is written over a horizontal line.

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